

A  
LETTER  
TO A  
MEMBER  
OF THE  
House of Commons

ON A  
PROPOSAL for Regulating and  
Advancing the WOOLLEN-  
MANUFACTORY, &c.

Given to the Members at the Commons  
Door, the 25th. of January, 1697.

L O N D O N,

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ON A  
Proposal for Regulating and  
Advancing the Wool  
MANUFACTURE.

Given to the Members of the House of Commons  
By the Speaker of the House of Commons.

LONDON:  
Printed for G. & J. Robinson, in the Strand.  
1790.



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**LETTER**

~~on: If what this honest Clothier,~~  
~~for to I take him to be, hath~~

**MEMBER**

~~I think it would be a~~  
~~advantage the~~

**OF THE**

**HOUSE OF COMMONS,**

**ON A**  
*Proposal for Regulating and Advancing the*  
*Woollen-Manufactory, &c.*

*VENTURING THE EXPORTS OF WOOLLEN*  
**SIR,**

**I** have read, and here give you  
my Thoughts of the Pro-  
posal you sent me, relating  
to the *Woollen-Manufactory*. First  
It convinces me, that without the

Experience and Information of practical Heads, Men of the best Understanding, cannot form Laws and Methods, for improving our Trade and Navigation: If what this honest Clothier, for so I take him to be, hath offered, was improv'd by a Law, I think it would establish and advance the *Woollen-Manufactory* of *England*, more than all the Laws made these hundred Years. Thus far I am of the Proposer's Opinion, as it relates to the working Part; but I doubt he is short in his Method for preventing the Exports of Wooll.

His Expedients for balancing, as he calls the Exports of *Woollen-Manufactory* from *England* and *Ireland*, seem such as I should



should think our Friends in *Ireland* will think reasonable.

There is only two Things that want Explanation: *First*, Whether Six Pence a Pound should be charged on *Irish Frize*, that would be equal to a Prohibition, the Commodity not being of Value to bear it?

The other Thing to be explain'd, is, Whether this Duty should be charg'd by our Parliament here, or by the Parliament of *Ireland*?

I believe all Nations in the World that have heard of our Constitution, think us the happiest People under Heaven; the way to keep us so, is to secure

cure

cure our Brethren in *Ireland*,  
the Right they have to the same  
Constitution.

Now I think the Soul of our  
Constitution is, that no *Eng-  
lish* Man is bound by any Law  
made, where he hath not a Re-  
presentative.

Both Kingdoms hold Parlia-  
ments; let us be careful of Par-  
liaments: By our supporting  
theirs, we secure our own; but  
if either Kingdom makes Laws  
for the other, we invade the  
Rights of *English* Men, By de-  
nying them their Representa-  
tives where Laws are made to  
oblige them.

I have



I have often admir'd the **Wif-**  
**dom** of the **Romans**, in making  
 the **Privilege** of a **Roman Uni-**  
**versal**, through their whole **Con-**  
**quest**. The poorest **Mechanick**,  
 though in a **Kingdom** governed  
 by their own **Laws**, not those  
 of **Rome**, yet a **Roman**, had the  
**Privilege** of being try'd accord-  
 ing to the **Roman Constitution**;  
 why should not we that have a  
 better **Foundation** than **Heathen**  
**Rome**, be as good **Men**, that is,  
 as **Careful** of the **Rights** and **Li-**  
**berties** of our **Nation**?

Let us not then **Consent** to  
 have any thing imposed on **Eng-**  
**lish Men**, where-ever they are, that  
 we would not indure our selves.  
 I am sure we should not submit  
 to a **Law** made in **Ireland**; and

B

we

we have nothing to justify our making Laws for them but Force, which though it may be a good Attendant to support Righteous Laws ; yet I cannot think it a good Authority to make them so, that are not.

The *British of Ireland* hold by the same Tenure we do ; by supporting the Annuity of our younger Brother, we secure the Inheritance to our selves.

I am afraid advancing the Power of our Parliament to the breaking the Rights of another, may turn upon our selves. I confess my self a Votary to Parliaments, and would therefore have nothing done that might weaken their Constitution.

I own



I own we have Reason to the last Degree, to look to our Woollen Manufactory; and I should rather part with all the other Trade and Commerce of the Nation than that; yet that should go, and my Life too, rather than my Hand should join in that Act, which breaks in upon the Rights and Liberties of *English* Men. Whilst we preserve that, it is our own Fault if we secure not our Trade and Navigation; and why should not we, by justifiable Methods, oblige *Ireland* to serve us in both?

I am humbly of opinion, there are Ways and Room enough to make that Island equally profitable to us with all our Foreign Plantations; but then it

must not be by driving out the *English*, in my weak Judgment. It hath been always the Mistake of *England*, in not giving *Irish* encouragement for more of our Nation to plant there; perhaps a thousand Families might have grown to a Strength that would have prevented the frequent Rebellions, that have cost the Lives of hundred thousands of *English* Men. We must, for our own sakes, keep *Ireland* out of *Irish* and Foreign Hands; and that we cannot do, but by our own People. It would be unnatural to them, and dangerous to ourselves, to establish them in Slavery; and it is so, where Men are governed by Laws they have no hand in making. The Infalible Author teacheth us better Doctrine, where he bids us, So  
*Speak*



*Speak, and so do, as they that shall  
be judged by the Law of Liberty,  
that is our Right may no hand in-  
vade it. I am,*

**S I R,**

**Your Obliged Servant,**

**F. B.**

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**F I N I S.**